

**Ben Franklin: A - Z**

# Abolitionist

After seeing young African children learning, Ben became an **abolitionist**, freeing his own slaves and campaigning for the freedom and education of all other slaves.



# Bifocal Glasses



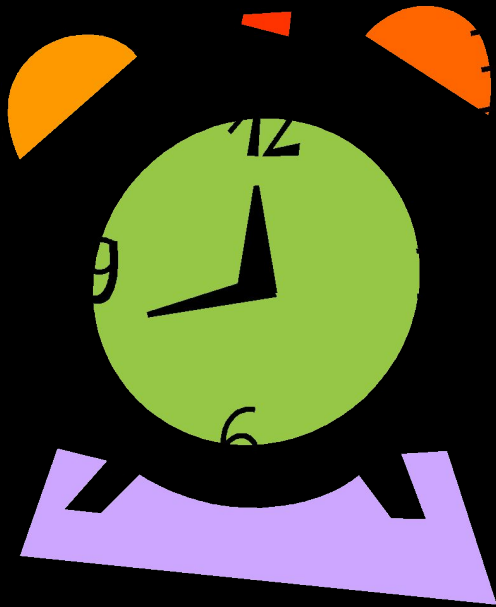
Ben's invention of **bifocal glasses** helped people see both near and far away without needing to switch glasses. He simply combined two lens in one frame.

# Continental Congress

At the age of eighty one, Ben was the oldest member of the Continental Congress. This group wrote the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.



# Daylight Savings Time



Daylight Savings Time was yet another one of Ben's inventions. It all started as a joke letter to a newspaper under an anonymous name, but the government liked the idea and adopted it!

# Exercise

Ben was one of **exercise's** earliest proponents. He believed that regular, rigorous **exercises**, especially outdoors, would prevent disease and make the body healthier.



# Firefighters



The first collection of **firefighters** in Philadelphia was Ben's suggestion. The members pledged to help each other put out fires, and the practice quickly spread to other cities.

# Gazette

As the publisher of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, Ben embraced freedom of expression and different viewpoints. He set the course for modern American news coverage.

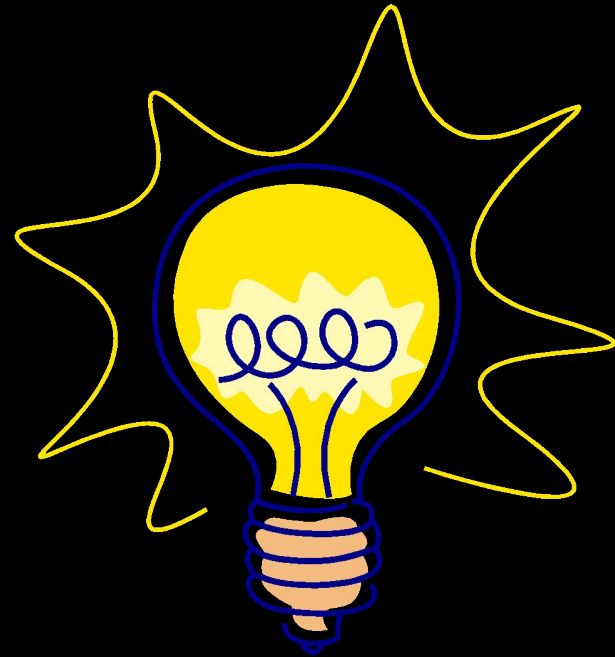






# Inventor

Ben was arguably the greatest **inventor** in all of American history. He liked to create things that were practical and helped with everyday inconveniences. He also improved already existing things.



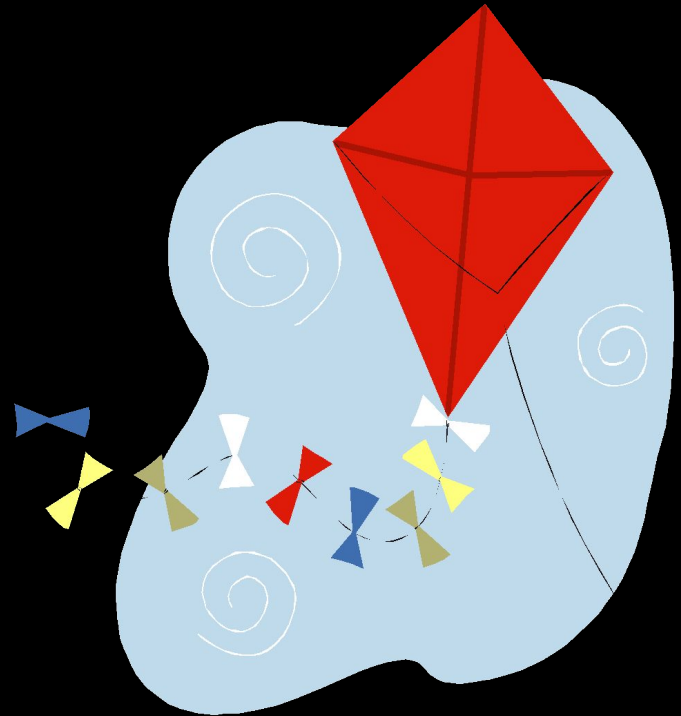
# Junto



In 1727, Ben organized a group of men, called **Junto**, who met for deep and engaging discussions. This group eventually grew into the modern American Philosophical Society.

# Kite Flying

One of the things Ben is most famous for in people's minds is **kite flying**. He conducted electricity from lightning, through a metal rod in the kite, and down the string to a key in his hand.



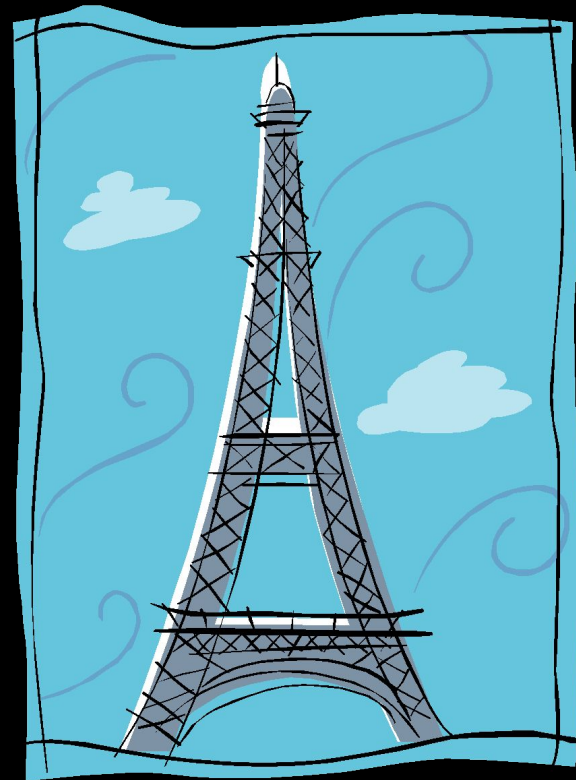
# Lightning Rod



Lightning destroyed many homes before Ben invented the **lightning rod**. It channeled the electricity from lightning to the ground. Ben considered this his most important invention.

# Minister to France

Ben served as America's first **Minister to France**. He negotiated peace between the colonies and France, gaining their support. He lived in the country for nine years.



# No Meat



When he was young, Ben needed more money to buy the books he loved so much. He decided to save money by eating **no meat**. He also believed that vegetarianism was better for the body.

# Odometer

Ben created the first **odometer** to measure distances covered. He used it to track his carriage routes when he delivered mail as the postmaster, so he could try and figure out the best route.





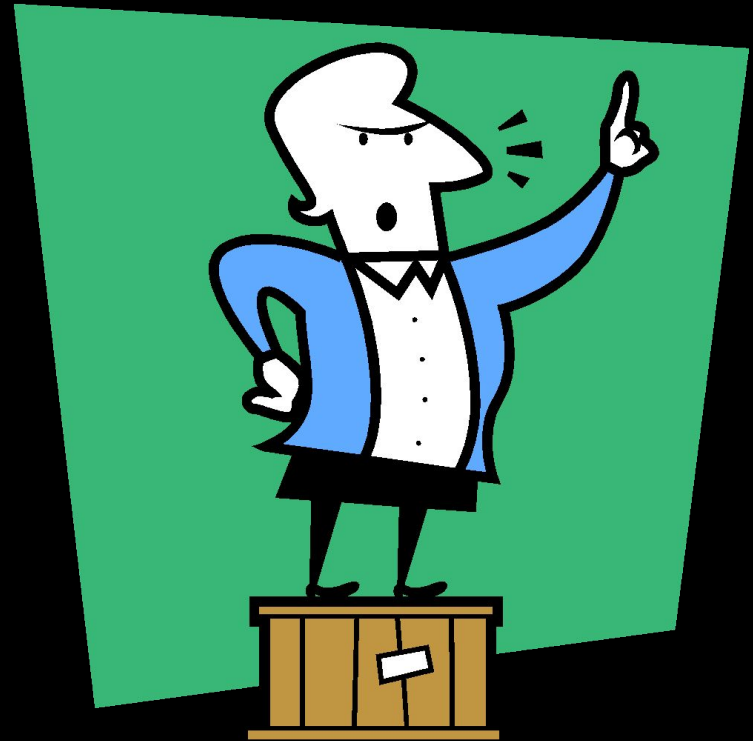
# Patent



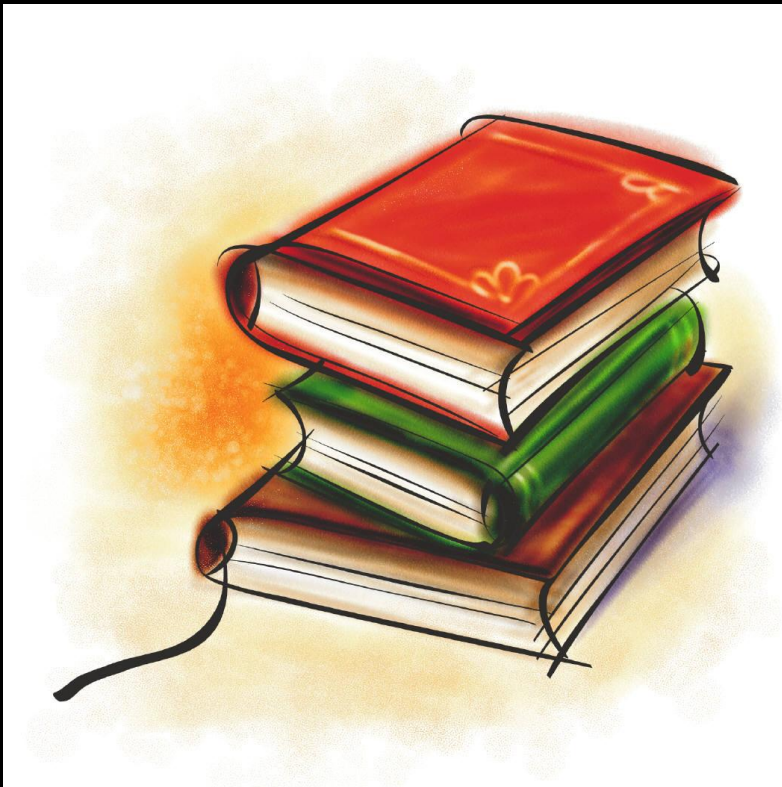
A **patent** wasn't taken out by Ben for any one of his many inventions! He believed that inventors should freely share their creations without trying to make money.

# Quotes

In the *Poor Richard's Almanac*, a book Ben put out annually for twenty-six years, he wrote countless witty **quotes** that people still use constantly today.



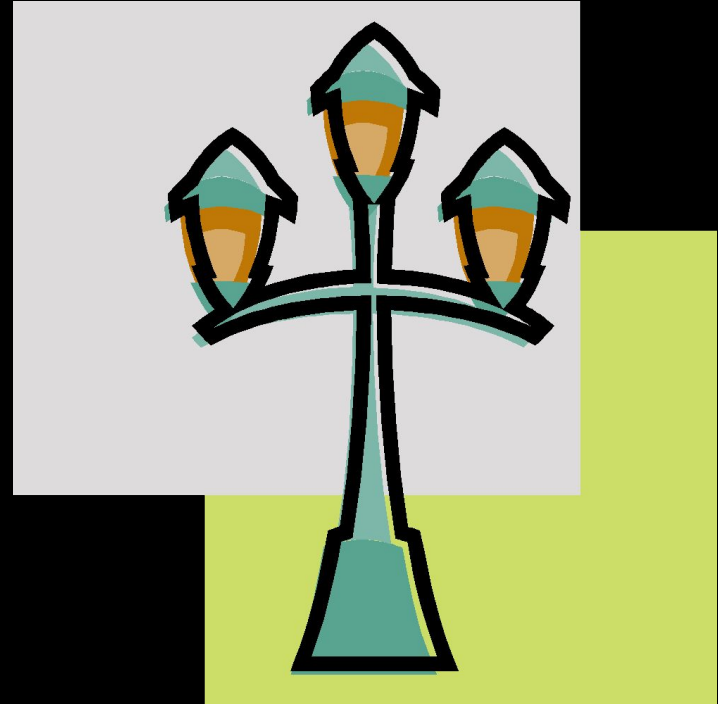
# Reading



**Reading** was one of Ben's greatest pleasures and passions. He had only two years of formal schooling, so he mostly taught himself to **read** in his brother's printing shop as an apprentice.

# Streetlights

**Streetlights** in Ben's day were dirty and not very bright. He invented an improved version that shone much stronger and didn't have to be cleaned as often.



# Three



Ben has the honor of being the only man in history to sign all of America's **three** early documents – the Declaration of Independence, the Treaty of Paris, and the U.S. Constitution.

# Underwater

A strong proponent of physical activity, Ben spent a lot of his time **underwater**. He taught himself how to swim, invented the first swim fins, and even became a full-time instructor.



# Volunteering



**Volunteering** was important to Ben. He believed that “People **volunteering** together in a spirit of cooperation could accomplish great things.”

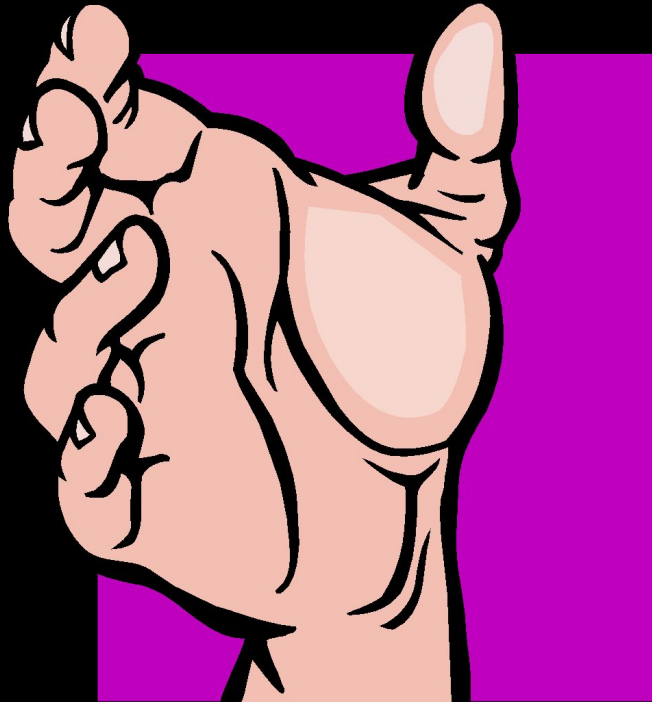
# Writing

Ben loved **writing**, like reading, and also mainly taught himself the ability as an apprentice in the print shop. He liked to write in letters to the local papers under funny pseudonyms.





# Extension Arm



Tired of being unable to reach books on the high shelves in the first public library he founded, Ben invented the **extension arm**, which still helps people grab things today.

# Young

Ben certainly wasn't **young** when he died! He lived to the age of eighty-four, an amazing accomplishment for his time period. His healthy life style probably made this possible.



# Zeal



Ben had a great **zeal** for life that few will ever be able to measure up to. He was a “man of many hats” - a diplomat, politician, inventor, writer, printer, philosopher, doctor, and much, much more!

# References

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